



Lowlands and Uplands Scotland ERDF and ESF Programmes 2007 - 2013 Programme Monitoring Committee

EVALUATION ACTION PLAN – UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

1. Purpose

1.1 To update PMC members on:

- ♦ past evaluation activity and learning from the previous Scottish Programmes;
- ♦ discussions with the European Commission and new evaluation contractors;
- ♦ planned activity under the Scottish Programmes' 2007-13 Evaluation Plan.

2. Past Evaluation

2.1 We have recently undertaken a review of all the major evaluation activities from the previous 2000-2006 Programmes and have collated a useful list, attached for information at *Annex A*. The list was commended for its full coverage by the European Commission at the Annual Review Meeting for 2000-2006 Programmes on 1 October.

2.2 These past evaluations will be added to a new section within the Scottish Government's website by early 2009 and any subsequent evaluations for this programme period will be added to the website. This will assist with any potential knowledge loss from the existing PME websites, some of which will close for business during 2009. I would be happy to provide PMC members with copies of any of these reports that they may find of interest.

3. Discussions with the European Commission and New Evaluation Contractors

3.1 The *Scottish Programmes' Evaluation Plan for 2007-13* was submitted (for information requirements only) to the European Commission earlier this year. The Commission signaled they are content with our planning during the recent Annual Review Meeting.

3.2 The Commission will continue to play a close role in our ongoing monitoring and evaluation practices. Commission desk officers have direct involvement in their roles as members of this, and the Highlands and Islands, PMC. There is also an open invitation for desk officers to participate in the Scottish Programmes' Monitoring and Evaluation Group (MEG) meetings (for which the Commission receive copies of the minutes).

3.3 After a detailed procurement process this year from February to September, the appointment of 3 companies to our first ever *Evaluation Framework contract* was concluded. Formal 3 year contracts (with a year extension option) were awarded on 1 September to:

- ♦ Blake Stevenson
- ♦ Fraser Associates
- ♦ Hall Aitken

Discussions will have taken place on 9 October, collectively with all 3 companies, to discuss the work plan ahead and ask for early thoughts and input from our new contractors. I would be happy to update the PMC of those discussions at the meeting.

4. Planned Activity for the Scottish Programmes' Evaluation Plan 2007-2013

4.1 The list of anticipated activity identified to date includes:

- ♦ Shadow Round Process/Impact Evaluation

Already under way.

- ♦ Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) Process Evaluation

The idea is to track this as an ongoing evaluation over the period of 2 years funding. There are different arrangements in the LUPS and H&I Programmes and these will both be looked at. **(ongoing 2008/9)**

- ♦ SDBs Process Evaluation

As above. Timing is dependant on agreements being put in place between the SG & IABs. **(ongoing 2008/9)**

- ♦ Strategic Report Process/Impact Evaluation

A requirement of the Regulation (Article 29). See extract attached at Annex B. **(early 2009)**

- ♦ Horizontal Themes Thematic Evaluation

A commitment to look at this, however would be wise to await further news from the European Commission on their plans for a gender mainstreaming evaluation. **(tbc 2009/10)**

- ♦ Publicity Evaluation

Assessing the performance of our publicity impact and the methods used in both the Scottish Government and IABs. **(tbc 2009/10)**

♦ SG and IABs Processes Evaluation

A systems stock-take evaluation to examine the processes put in place within the SG and IABs for the 2007-13 programmes. **(tbc 2009/10)**

♦ ESF Longitudinal impact evaluation

A form of Leavers Survey, probably focusing on specific Priorities, rather than all ESF activity. **(tbc 2009/10)**

4.2 All activity is agreed formally after discussion by MEG, which next meets on 10 December. I report to respective PMCs on planned activity and invite any input from PMC members. The initial implementation timetable is attached at the end of this paper.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is invited to:

5.1.1 provide formal approval for all activities planned;

5.1.2 offer any views on additional work or evaluations which would provide a useful purpose (within budget considerations);

5.1.3 note that MEG will update the Scottish Programmes Evaluation Plan in late 2008, for submitting again to the European Commission for information in early 2009.

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October 2008

Scotland - Main Evaluations Since April 2004

ANNEX A

No.	Completed	Evaluation Title	Evaluators/Authors
1.	April 2004	2002 Leavers Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland Report (ESF). 	Institute for Employment Studies
2.	October 2004	Equality in Practice: Making it Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Report on Equal Opportunities Good Practice for SMEs and Scottish Executive 	Muriel Mackenzie, Structural Funds Equal Opportunities Adviser
3.	October 2004	Linking Sustainable Development to Regional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Report on learning from Scotland's experience for SMEs and Scottish Executive. 	Calum Macleod, Structural Funds Sustainable Development Adviser
4.	October 2004	Mainstreaming Regional Development in Regional Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESEP Commissioned Report and Good Practice Guidance on learning from the East of Scotland experience. 	ESEP Key Policies Group
5.	November/December 2005	Mid Term Evaluation Updates (MTEUs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of Scotland Programme (ERDF & ESF) • URBAN Programme (ERDF) • East of Scotland Programme (ERDF) • South of Scotland Programme (ERDF) • Objective 3 Programme (ESF) • Highlands and Islands Programmes (ERDF; ESF; EAGGF & FIFG) 	MTEU Steering Groups (comprising of SME Chief Execs; ESF Division Evaluation team and independent stakeholders)
6.	October 2005	Review of ESF Social Inclusion Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by EKOS consultants drawing from all 3 Scottish ESF Programmes. 	EKOS
7.	October 2005	Investigation into Low Levels of Absorption for European and National Funds in Business Grant Schemes in the East of Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report commissioned by ESEP with lessons learned that can be applied further afield. 	SQW
8.	January 2006	Making Every Euro Count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Hall Aitken on shape of future EU Structural Funds for Scotland. 	Hall Aitken
9.	January 2006	Structural Funds 2006: Stakeholders Views <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Hall Aitken on shape of future EU Structural Funds for Scotland. 	Hall Aitken
10.	February 2006	Adding Value, Keeping Value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Structural Funds Added Value Group, including SME Directors, ESF staff 	Structural Funds Added Value Group
11.	March 2006	The 2005 Beneficiaries Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland Report (ESF) 	MORI

No.	Completed	Evaluation Title	Evaluators/Authors
12.	April 2006	<i>Socio-economic analysis for Lowlands and Uplands Programmes (LUPS)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional commissioned Report providing additional analysis. 	TERU, University of Glasgow
13.	October 2006	<i>European Structural Funds 2007-13: Future Indicators</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, workshops, consultations and report on indicator framework for Scottish Programmes. 	DTZ Pidea
14.	May 2007	<i>Scottish Ex-Ante Evaluation for Lowlands and Uplands Scotland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, workshops, consultations and report on proposed operational programmes for Scottish LUPS area. 	Hall Aitken
15.	May 2007	<i>Scottish Ex-Ante Evaluation for Highlands and Islands Scotland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, workshops, consultations and report on proposed operational programmes for Scottish H&I area. 	EKOS
16.	May 2007	<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment for Lowlands and Uplands Scotland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development consultations and report on specific environmental aspects for proposed operational programmes for Scottish LUPS area. 	ecodyn
17.	May 2007	<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment for Highlands and Islands Scotland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development consultations and report on specific environmental aspects for proposed operational programmes for Scottish H&I area. 	ecodyn
18.	October 2007	<i>Evaluating Sustainability Strategies in European Structural Funds Programmes and Projects. An Exploratory Study of the Mainstreaming Sustainable Development Approach of the Eastern Scotland European Partnership (ESEP)</i>	Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Germany
19.	February 2008	<i>The Mainstreaming Legacy of the 2000-2006 Structural Funds Programmes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary report of the lessons learnt and good practice of the mainstreaming of the Horizontal Themes in the Scottish Structural Funds Programmes fro 200-06. 	Scottish Government and PMEs
20.	February 2008 (delayed publication)	<i>Operation and Effectiveness of Venture Capital Funds (VCF) in Scotland</i>	Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services
21.	(interim July 2008; final tbc)	<i>Shadow Round Evaluation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report commissioned to evaluate Shadow Round of ESF support (interim delivered July 2008; final due October 2008). 	Hall Aitken
22.	September 2008	<i>Feasibility Study into consortium arrangements for the voluntary sector in relation to EU Structural Funds (ESEP)</i>	Rocket Science

ANNEX B*Strategic follow-up**Article 29***Strategic reporting by the Member States**

1. For the first time in 2007, each Member State shall include in the annual implementation report on its national reform programme a concise section on the contribution of the operational programmes co-financed by the Funds towards the implementation of the national reform programme.
2. At the latest by the end of 2009 and 2012, the Member States shall provide a concise report containing information on the contribution of the programmes co-financed by the Funds:
 - (a) towards implementing the objectives of cohesion policy as established by the Treaty;
 - (b) towards fulfilling the tasks of the Funds as set out in this Regulation;
 - (c) towards implementing the priorities detailed in the Community strategic guidelines on cohesion referred to in Article 25 and specified in the priorities set by the national strategic reference framework referred to in Article 27; and
 - (d) towards achieving the objective of promoting competitiveness and job creation and working towards meeting the objectives of the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005 to 2008) as laid down in Article 9(3).
3. Each Member State shall define the content of the reports referred to in paragraph 2, with a view to identifying:
 - (a) the socio-economic situation and trends;
 - (b) achievements, challenges and future prospects in relation to implementation of the agreed strategy; and
 - (c) examples of good practice.
4. References to the national reform programme in this Article shall relate to the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005 to 2008) and shall equally apply to any equivalent guidelines defined by the European Council.

For Decision

LUPS 08/2/05

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Qtr 3, 2007	Qtr 4, 2007	Qtr 1, 2008	Qtr 2, 2008	Qtr 3, 2008	Qtr 4, 2008
1	Evaluation Planning: 2007-13 Programmes	3392 days	Mon 01/01/07	Tue 31/12/19						
2										
3	MEG meetings	338 days	Mon 27/08/07	Wed 10/12/08						
8	DG Regio Evaluation Network meetings	302 days	Thu 20/09/07	Fri 14/11/08						
13	DG Emplo ESF Partnership meetings	178 days?	Tue 25/09/07	Thu 29/05/08						
14	Meeting 1 (Brussels)	2 days	Tue 25/09/07	Wed 26/09/07						
15	Meeting 2 (Warsaw)	2 days?	Wed 28/05/08	Thu 29/05/08						
16	Shadow Round process/impact evaluation	72 days?	Thu 31/07/08	Fri 07/11/08						
17	Interim Report	1 day?	Thu 31/07/08	Thu 31/07/08						
18	Final Report	1 day?	Fri 07/11/08	Fri 07/11/08						
19	Evaluation Framework	137 days?	Fri 22/02/08	Mon 01/09/08						
20	Agree Procurement Strategy	1 day?	Fri 22/02/08	Fri 22/02/08						
21	Tenders issued	1 day?	Fri 09/05/08	Fri 09/05/08						
22	Tender Evaluation	15 days?	Mon 07/07/08	Fri 25/07/08						
23	Contract negotiation and clarification period	25 days?	Mon 28/07/08	Fri 29/08/08						
24	Contract awarded	1 day?	Mon 01/09/08	Mon 01/09/08						
25	Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) process ev.	58 days?	Wed 10/09/08	Fri 28/11/08						
26	discussions at MEG	1 day	Wed 10/09/08	Wed 10/09/08						
27	discussions with evaluators	1 day	Thu 09/10/08	Thu 09/10/08						
28	draft spec	35 days?	Mon 13/10/08	Fri 28/11/08						
29	SDBs process evaluation	58 days?	Wed 10/09/08	Fri 28/11/08						
30	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/09/08	Wed 10/09/08						
31	discussions with evaluators	1 day?	Thu 09/10/08	Thu 09/10/08						
32	draft spec	35 days?	Mon 13/10/08	Fri 28/11/08						
33	Strategic Report process/impact evaluation	58 days?	Wed 10/09/08	Fri 28/11/08						
34	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/09/08	Wed 10/09/08						
35	discussions with evaluators	1 day?	Thu 09/10/08	Thu 09/10/08						
36	draft spec	35 days?	Mon 13/10/08	Fri 28/11/08						
37	Horizontal Themes thematic evaluation	78 days?	Wed 10/12/08	Fri 27/03/09						
38	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/12/08	Wed 10/12/08						
39	draft spec	20 days?	Mon 02/03/09	Fri 27/03/09						
40	Publicity process/impact evaluation	78 days?	Wed 10/12/08	Fri 27/03/09						
41	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/12/08	Wed 10/12/08						
42	draft spec	20 days?	Mon 02/03/09	Fri 27/03/09						
43	SG & IABs systems evaluation	78 days?	Wed 10/12/08	Fri 27/03/09						
44	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/12/08	Wed 10/12/08						
45	draft spec	20 days?	Mon 02/03/09	Fri 27/03/09						
46	ESF Longitudinal impact evaluation	78 days?	Wed 10/12/08	Fri 27/03/09						
47	discussions at MEG	1 day?	Wed 10/12/08	Wed 10/12/08						
48	draft spec	20 days?	Mon 02/03/09	Fri 27/03/09						